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Head of Deak-Perera and Worker Shot Dead

By **SELWYN RAAB**

The chairman of the Deak-Perera foreign-exchange company and a receptionist were shot and killed yesterday by a woman who the police said had delusions that she was part-owner of the company.

After being asked to leave the executive offices of the company on lower Broadway, the woman returned two hours later and fatally shot Nicholas L. Deak, the company's founder and chief executive officer, the police said. Also slain was the receptionist, Frances

Lauder, who earlier had asked the woman to leave.

According to a police spokesman, Alice T. McGillion, the woman shot Mr. Deak and then, as she dragged him back into his office, was overheard saying, "Now, you've got yours."

The police identified the suspect as Lois Lang, 44 years old, whose last known address was a motel in Orlando, Fla. A loaded .38-caliber revolver was wrested from Miss Lang by the police officer who had tackled her outside Mr. Deak's private office.

Miss Lang had a receipt for the purchase of a .38-caliber handgun for \$115 last Thursday at a pawn shop in Orlando, detectives said. Under Florida law, a resident of that state may legally buy a gun but must first show proof of residence, generally a valid driver's license.

Detectives said Miss Lang was carrying \$150 in cash and coins, two shopping bags stuffed with clothes, and a knapsack containing personal belongings and an aluminum baseball bat.

Miss Lang had no known address in New York and appeared to be homeless, Miss McGillion said.

Mr. Deak, who was 80 years old, was the founder of the company, one of the nation's oldest and largest retail foreign-exchange and precious-metals dealers.

Capt. William Quigley of the first detective zone of Manhattan, said Deak-Perera employees had told detectives that Miss Lang appeared frequently in the last year at the main offices at 29 Broadway. Each time, she said "some injustice had been done to her and she was entitled to some kind of compensation by the company for some business they were involved in," Captain Quigley said in an interview.

The captain said the employees had described Miss Lang as often incoherent, insisting that she was an owner of the company and that Mr. Deak personally owed her money. But usually she would leave peacefully, Captain Quigley said, after being asked to do so by employees.

Officials of the privately owned Deak-Perera company said yesterday that Miss Lang had never been employed by the company and that she had no financial interest in it or any of its subsidiaries.

Account of Shootings

In reconstructing events, Captain Quigley said that at about 9:30 A.M., Miss Lang walked into the glass-enclosed reception area of the company's 21st-floor executive suite in a 30-story building at Morris Street near the Battery.

Miss Lang, the police said, told the receptionist, Mrs. Lauder, that she wanted to see Mr. Deak. Mrs. Lauder, who was 58 years old and lived at 58 Ardsley Street in Staten Island, said Mr. Deak was out and asked Miss Lang to leave.

Other employees said Miss Lang left without complaint.

A porter in the building, Steve Kiersh, who said he had seen Miss Lang described her as having shoulder-length gray hair and wearing sneakers, blue jeans, a white thermal T-shirt and two windbreaker jackets.

At about 11:30 A.M., Miss Lang returned. Police officials said she opened the glass door, walked about 30 feet to the left where Mrs. Lauder was alone at a desk and, without warning, fired two bullets. One struck Mrs. Lauder in the head, the other lodged in a wall behind Mrs. Lauder's desk.

Miss Lang, police officials said, then headed through a corridor for Mr. Deak's office, about 25 feet from the receptionist's desk. Mr. Deak's secretary, Sonya Quinones, told detectives that, after hearing the gunfire and a commotion, she hid under her desk outside of Mr. Deak's office.

About a dozen employees were in various offices at the time of the shooting, said Miss McGillion, the deputy commissioner for public information.

She said detectives believe Mr. Deak heard the gunfire and walked into the corridor to investigate.

Miss Lang, the police said, fired three shots at Mr. Deak without warning. One bullet struck him in the chest. As he lay on the floor, Miss McGillion said, Miss Lang leaned over and pulled him into his office.

Other employees called the Police Department's emergency telephone number, 911.

Miss McGillion said Miss Lang remained in Mr. Deak's office for several minutes and apparently reloaded the gun.

Three police officers assigned to the First Precinct responded to the report. While two officers searched another part of the 21st floor occupied by Deak-Perera, Officer Edward Ruvane saw Miss Lang near the receptionist's area. Employees in the vestibule pointed

out Miss Lang as an intruder, and Officer Ruvane ordered her to take her hands out of her pockets and hold them in the air. When she refused, witnesses said, Officer Ruvane tackled her, threw her to the ground and pulled the gun from her pocket.

"She was coherent," Captain Quigley said later of Miss Lang's demeanor after her arrest. "She was not a raving maniac. She was quiet and subdued."

Miss McGillion said Miss Lang told detectives she had returned to the city from Florida by bus yesterday morning.

According to Miss McGillion, Miss Lang said she was single and had no immediate family.

Robert Konopka, the president of the company that manages the 29 Broadway building, Jeffries Avlon Inc., said Deak-Perera had no uniformed security guards at its executive offices.

Mr. Deak and Mrs. Lauder were taken to New York Infirmary Beekman-Downtown Hospital. Mrs. Lauder was dead on arrival and Mr. Deak died shortly after arriving, said a hospital spokesman.

A spokesman for the Manhattan District Attorney's office, Mary de Bourbon, said Miss Lang would be charged on two counts of murder in the second degree.

Mr. Deak, a Hungarian immigrant, founded the company that grew to be the country's largest bullion and currency trading concern. At one time, a group of companies headed by Mr. Deak included 75 foreign-exchange offices, three banks and large real-estate holdings.

Mr. Deak was born in Hatzseg, a section of Transylvania that after World War II was incorporated into Rumania. He was educated in Hungary, Austria and Switzerland and worked for European banks before emigrating to the United States in 1939.

In 1939 he formed Deak & Company, the holding company that later controlled his other subsidiaries. He disbanded the company in 1942 when he enlisted in the Army. During World War II he joined the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency. He was discharged with the rank of major.

Aides to Mr. Deak said he was a vegetarian who, at the age of 80, ran several miles a day. Mr. Deak, who lived in Scarsdale, is survived by his wife, Lisl, and a son, R. Leslie, who is a consultant with Deak & Company.

Mrs. Lauder is survived by her husband, Jack, an employee of the Internal Revenue Service; and a daughter, Bonnie, a nurse at Brooklyn Hospital.